

REMARKS

Prior to examination, applicants respectfully request that this preliminary amendment be entered.

The drawings have been amended. Applicants submit that the figures as amended do not add new matter given that support is found the specification at page 11, lines 12-13, page 16, lines 7-9, and page 19, lines 9-10.

The changes to the specification conform the specification to the formal drawings and correct errors.

The claims have been amended in view of restriction requirements in grandfather application no. 08/855,105, filed May 13, 1997 and parent application no. 10/071,581, filed February 7, 2002. In addition, claim 25 has been amended.

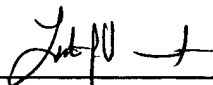
It is respectfully submitted that the amendments do not add new matter.

If there are any charges not covered by any check submitted, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR & ZAFMAN LLP

Dated: February 29, 2004



Lester J. Vincent
Registration No. 31,460

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(408) 720-8300

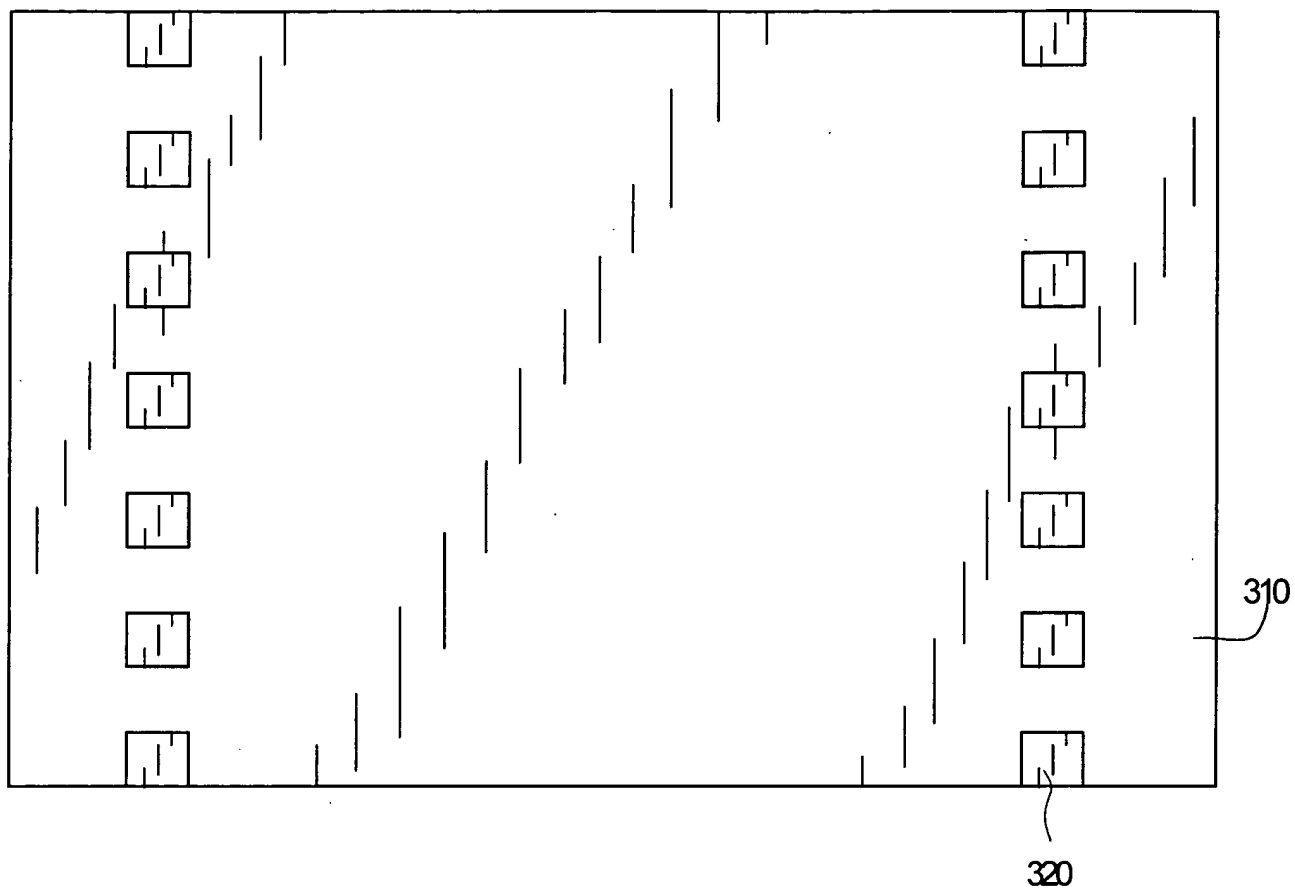


FIG 3A

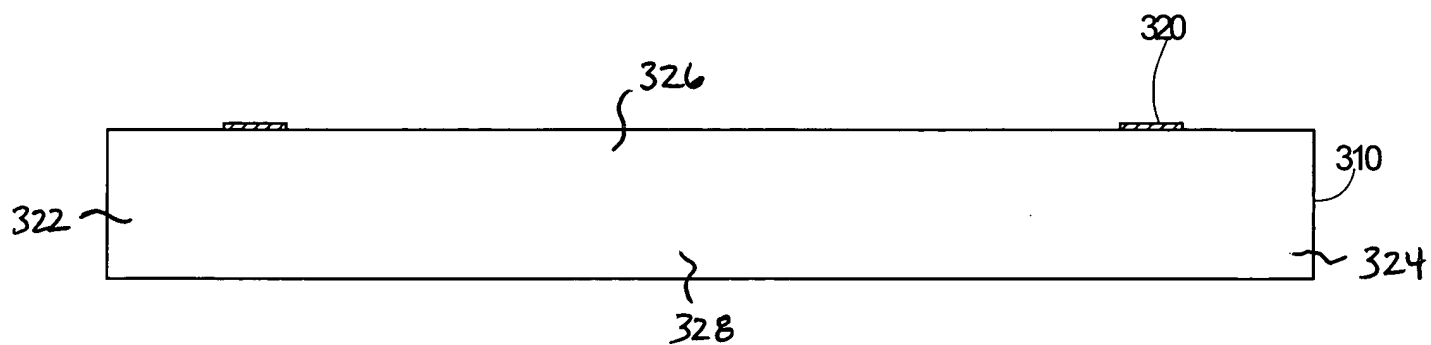


FIG 3B

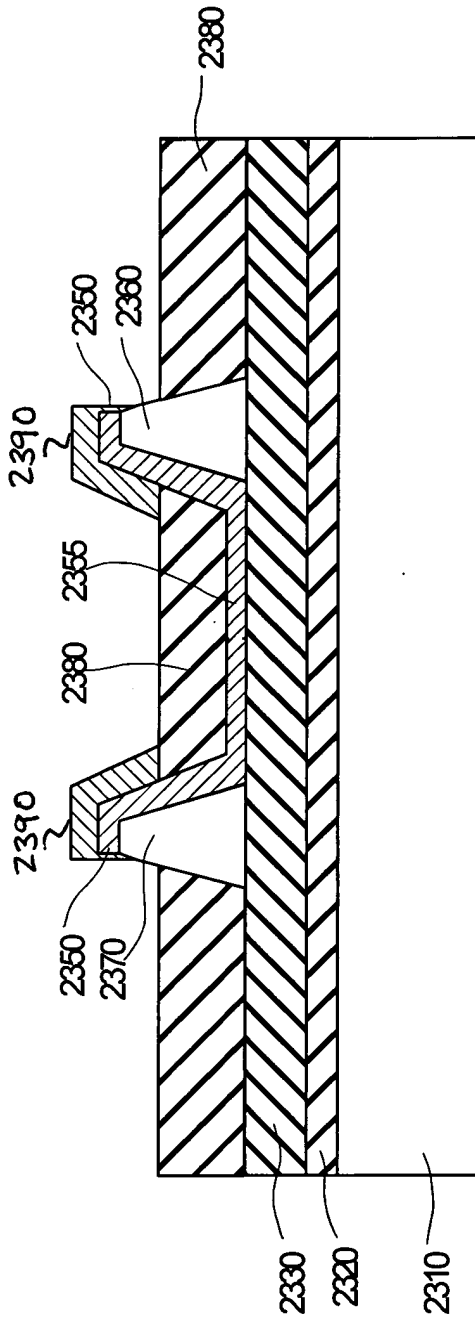


FIG. 23A

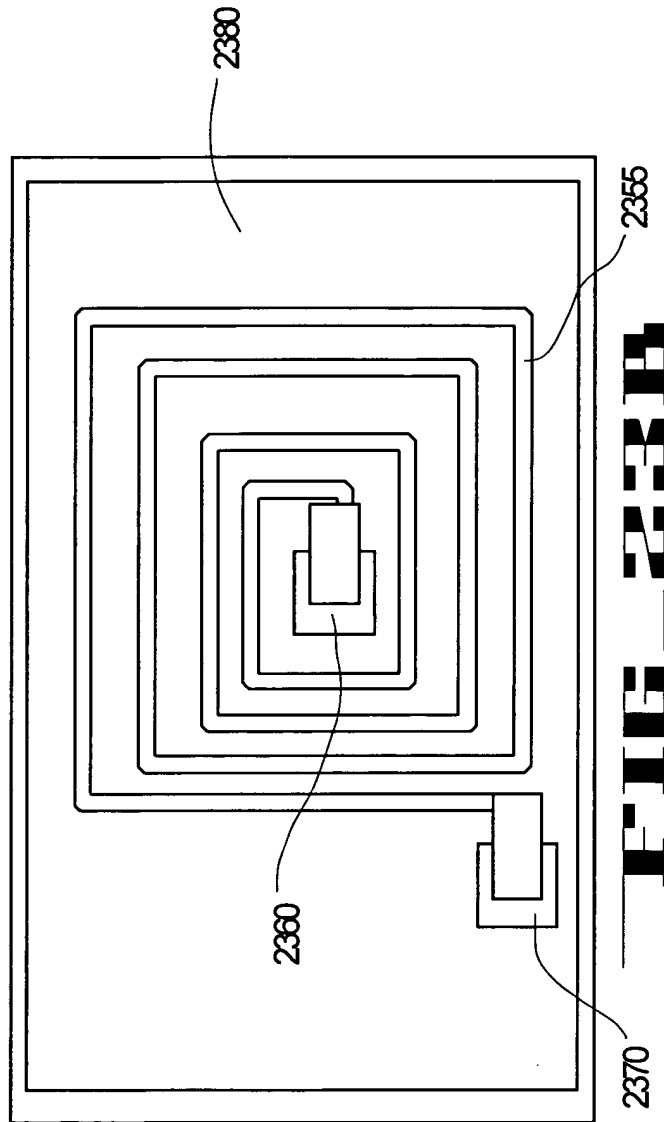


FIG. 23B

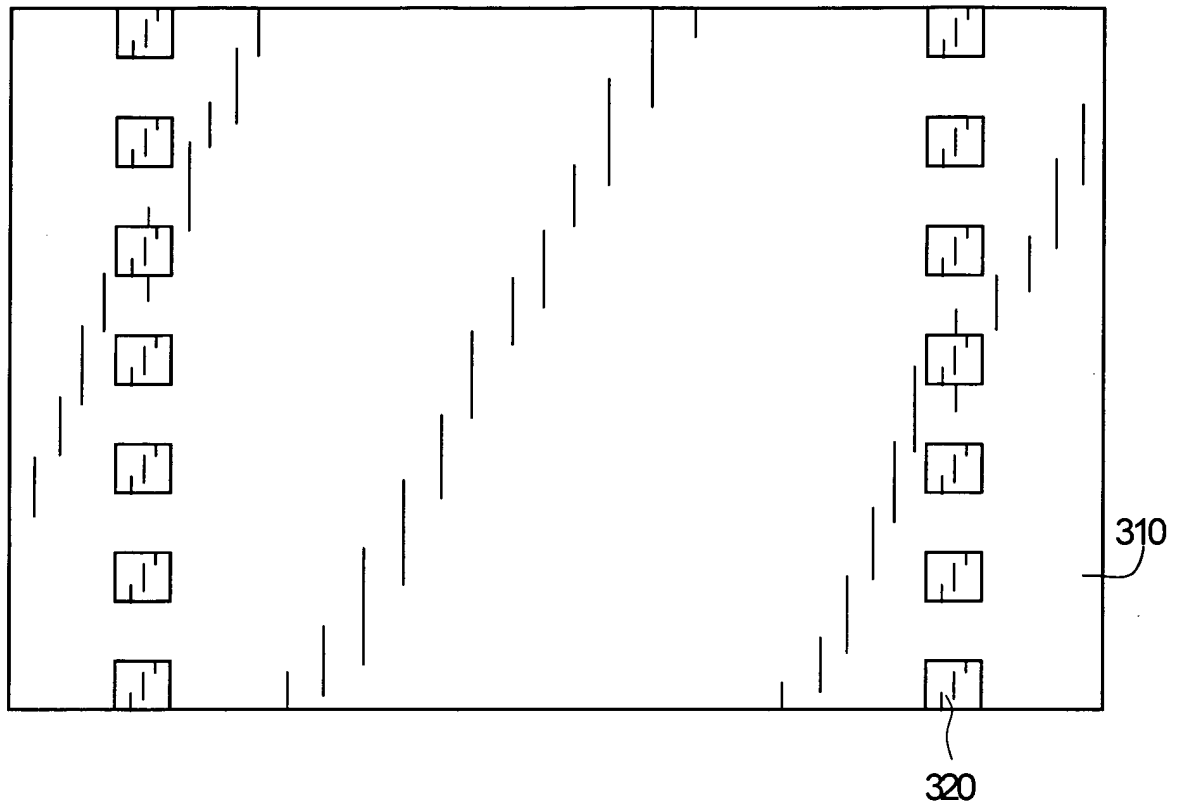


FIG. 3A

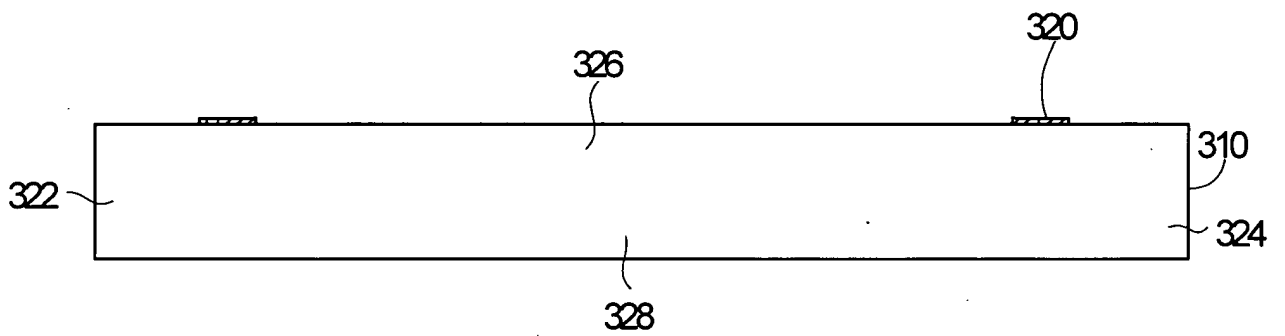


FIG. 3B

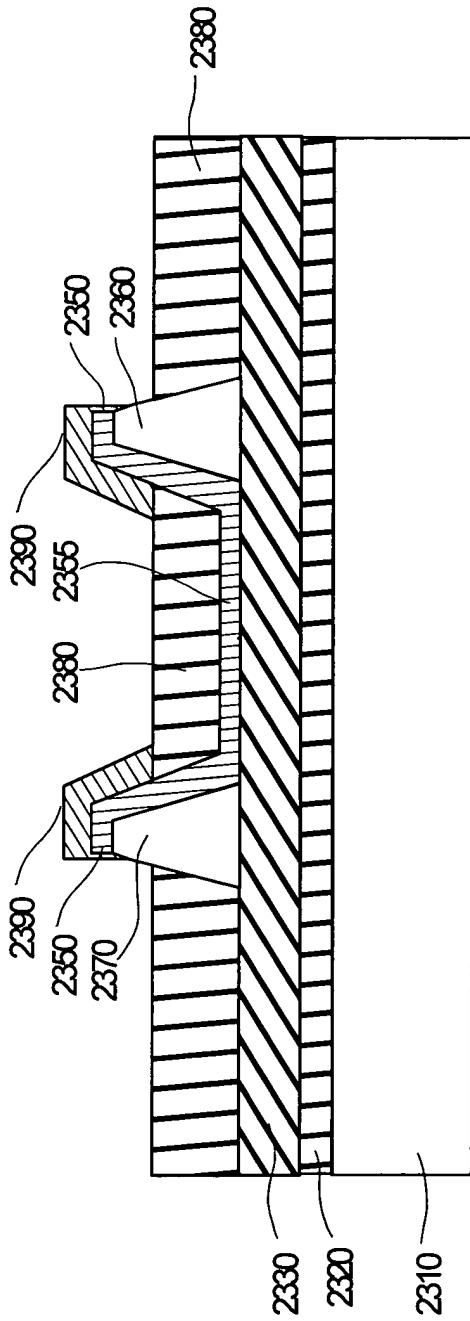


FIG. 23A

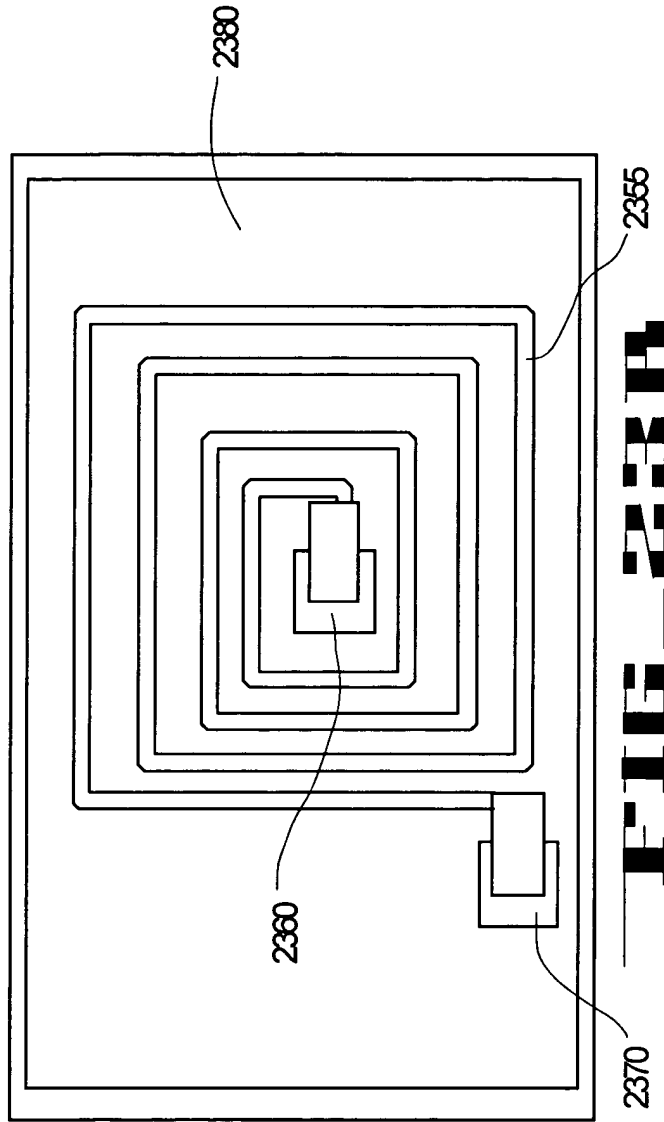


FIG. 23B